

STUDENT TEACHERS' PERCEPTION TOWARD THE USE OF MOTHER TONGUE AND TARGET LANGUAGE IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

For many decades, the use of mother tongue (MT) in English classroom has been debated. It is often argued that, teachers should avoid the use of mother tongue in English classroom and should use English (TL) only. The aim of this study is to find out and answer the research question which is "What are student teachers' perceptions toward the use of mother tongue and target language in their English classroom?". The participants of this research were 8 student teachers who had already done Teaching Practicum in SMK N 1 Salatiga. This research used two instruments to collect the data. The researcher used a questionnaire with follow-up structured interview. This research found that the language policy in SMK N 1 Salatiga was student teachers should use English only or 80% of TL in the classroom. However, mostly the student teachers used MT in the classroom but there was one student teacher who used more TL than MT in the classroom. It was also found there were three different feelings of the participants towards the use of MT and TL in the classroom. The findings were very similar to previous study which was MT are used more in the classroom. However, this research went further than the previous study. This research tried to find out student teachers' feeling toward the use of MT in English classroom.

Keywords: *language policy, mother tongue, target language*